



[001] TITLE OF INVENTION

Changeable Golf Sponsor Display

[002] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

4,270,292	2/1981	Eckberg, II	40/611
5,408,774	4/1995	Grewe et al.	40/606
5,448,844	9/1995	Miller, Jr. et al.	40/611
5,619,816	4/1997	Ellison	40/738
5,675,923	10/1997	Sarkisian et al.	40/612
5,678,339	10/1997	Marventano	40/789
6,253,478 B1	7/2001	Kalavity	40/645
6,276,084 B1	8/2001	Lanier	40/611
6,449,891 B1	9/2002	Miska	40/789
6,584,717 B2	7/2003	Cinquina	40/774
6,594,934 B1	7/2003	Wong	40/743

(new) None.

[003] STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

[004] REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING

Not applicable.

[005] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Category field of the invention;

~~The present invention relates to changeable indicia substrate displays, more particularly to displays suited for penetrating the ground, but not exclusively; as said invention is self supporting for indoor counter top or floor display use and also changeable to outdoor use, including ground penetration.~~

(new) which utilize a cut through slit within a bendable and laterally curved plastic(new) substrate to pinchingly retain a sheet of paper.

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[006] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Description of prior art;

Charitable golf outings display sponsor and donor names, using sponsor signs that are placed in the ground throughout the golf course. The current method ~~of supply, is~~ uses computer cut vinyl lettering applied to a corrugated substrate, and is supported by low quality, and quick to rust "H-shaped" wire stands. When golfing during the event, these ~~said~~ current displays become moving distractions in the slightest wind. ~~Said~~ The current sign display is both expensive to have lettered, and also expensive to remove and re-letter any new sponsor names or tournament information. The tournament director is totally dependent on a local sign shop for price, quality, and rush deadline sponsor additions. Transporting and storage of this corrugated sign and wire stand sign are both cumbersome and bulky. ~~The~~ Use of ~~said the~~ current display is limited to the golf course on tournament day only, ~~with no other options of use.~~

[007] SUMMARY

This invention of a changeable golf sponsor display is purposed to free up the user's dependency on others to supply printed sponsor indicia, provide more options in substrate types used, including how, when and where ~~said a~~ display can be used. The full extension of a retractable, stainless steel leg set transforms a single flexible planar display substrate into a 3-D appearing curvature shape.

(new) An inverted U-shape cut through slit located in the substrates center portion

(new) pinchingly retains a sheet of indicia paper.

~~An optional and vertically adjustable sliding clip allows various size and thickness of rigid indicia substrates to be quickly mounted to frontward convex surface of said display.~~

[008] The instant speed of changing ~~said~~ indicia substrates competes with all other assets, including compact storage, safe and easy handling, and vertical self-standing stability.

[009] With a leg set retracted and inverted, ~~said the~~ leg set retains ~~said the~~ curvature shape for optional pre-tournament advertising use as an indoor counter top or

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floor display within a sponsor's own business location, or by any others affiliated with the golf event. A pre-event display advertises the golf tournament for attendance and sponsorship; ~~whereas said~~ and wherein the display changes to an outdoor ground penetrating display during the event; and then changes back to an indoor display, ~~to thanking~~ those previously solicited, with photos and dollar amounts taken in. These opened up options of how, when and where ~~said the~~ display is used, ~~it will~~ fill a need in any tournament director's end goal. Last minute sponsor changes; or any message needed quickly, may be printed from any computer and instantly displayed. One multi-purpose display can now be used before, during and after the golf event. ~~User's~~ A users dependency on others is freed up, with many more options left open.

[010] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Fig. 1 shows a rear view of the preferred embodiment with the leg set extended, the ~~cylindrically~~ curved shape retained, the indicia retaining slit with inwardly and upwardly directed ~~predetermined vector line~~ beginning and ending stress points, and a plurality of apertures and notches.
- [011] Fig. 2 shows an overhead view with the leg set extended.
- [012] Fig. 3 shows a rear view before forming ~~said the~~ leg set apertures.
- [013] Fig. 4 shows a rear view in storage form, with ~~said the~~ leg set retracted, and one leg of ~~said the~~ leg set removed from the leg set retaining apertures.
- [014] Fig. 5 shows a rear view with ~~said the~~ leg set inverted, for use as a self standing display.
- [015] Fig. 6 shows a front view with the uppermost vertical planar edge pulled back for flexible indicia insertion.
- [016] Fig. 7 shows a front view with the leg set deployed, and a rigid indicia substrate inserted.
- [017] Fig. 8,a and Fig. 8,b show front and back views respectively, of a vertically adjustable sliding clip. Fig. 8,c shows the substrate shape before its forming.



[018] NUMERALS IN DRAWINGS

- 10 main body of display substrate
- 12 ground level
- 14 wire rod leg set
- 16 elongate bent leg tips
- 18 leg set retaining aperture
- 20 lower base curvature of display
- 22 ~~vector line slit stressed end points~~ inwardly and upwardly directed

(new) beginning and ending points of the cut through appendage forming slit

- 24 completely cut-through slit
- 26 rigid indicia retaining tab
- 28 indicia retaining appendage
- 30 planar edge perimeter notch
- 32 horizontal display width comparison
- 34 main body curvature
- 36 aperture forming support tabs
- 38 aperture area before forming
- 40 flexible indicia substrate
- 42 rigid indicia substrate
- 44 uppermost vertical planar edge
- 46 vertically adjustable sliding clip
- 48 curved tab of sliding clip



[019] (new) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (new) Fig. 1 shows a rear view of the preferred embodiment with the leg set (14) extended, and with the substrates curved shape being retained, and the indicia retaining inverted U-shape cut through slit(24) with inwardly and upwardly directed predetermined beginning and ending stress points (22), and a plurality of leg set retaining apertures (18) and a substrates perimeter edge notches (30). Also shown is the substrates main body portion (10), the rigid indicia retaining tab (26), a grounds level surface (12), the bent tip portions (16) of the leg set, the lower base curved portion (20) of the display, the resulting indicia retaining appendage (28), and the leg aperture forming support tabs (36). Also shown is a dotted line (38) for the reader to see a lateral width of the substrate for comparison with Fig. 3.
- [020] (new) Fig. 2 shows an overhead view with the wire rod leg set (14) extended, and showing the legs bent tips (16), and the leg set retaining apertures (18), and the substrates main body curvature (34).
- [021] (new) Fig. 3 shows a rear view before forming the leg set apertures, and showing the dotted lines of the substrates width comparison (32) for the reader to compare with Figure 1, and the appendage forming cut through slit (24), and the substrate's perimeter edge notches (30), and the substrates main body (10), and the leg aperture forming support tabs (36).
- [022] (new) Fig. 4 shows a rear view in a flattened storage form, with the leg set (14) retracted, and with one leg of the leg set removed from the leg set retaining apertures (18), and showing the folded tabs (36), and the leg sets bent tips (16).
- [023] (new) Fig. 5 shows a rear view with the leg set(14) inverted for use as a self standing display, and the indicia retaining appendage (28), and the held paper indicia sheet (40).
- [024] (new) Fig. 6 shows a front view with the uppermost vertical planar edge (44) pulled back for insertion of the paper indicia sheet (40), and the substrates main body portion (10), and the paper retaining appendage (28), and the lower base curvature (20) of the display.

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[025] (new) Fig. 7 shows a front view with the leg set extended, and a rigid indicia
(new) substrate (42) inserted between the sliding clips (46) curved tab (48) and
(new) the rigid indicia retaining tab (26), and also showing the indicia retaining
(new) appendage (28).

[026] (new) Fig. 8,a and Fig. 8,b show front and back views respectively, of a vertically
(new) adjustable sliding clip (48). Fig. 8,c shows the substrates shape before its
(new) forming.

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[027] (new) DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

(new) The preferred embodiment within Figure 1 shows a leg set (14) being (new) fully extended downward through a plurality of leg set retaining (new) apertures (18) which are formed of tabs (36), and with the substrates curved (new) shape being retained by the leg set as shown at the lower base curved (new) portion (20) of the display. The inverted U-shape cut through slit (24) begins (new) and ends with inwardly and upwardly directed beginning and ending (new) locations (22), and forms the resulting indicia retaining appendage (28) (new) which is smaller in size than any retained paper sheet.



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[028] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION - OPERATION

Fabrication of the overall perimeter edge shape or design is optionally altered to most any single shape that suits the event; from a golf ball and tee shape, to a soccer or football, without detracting from the function or scope of the invention. ~~Said~~ The option of changing ~~said the~~ perimeter shape of ~~said the~~ display is possible through the simplicity of the tear preventive indicia retaining slit which forms the indicia substrate retaining appendage. Fabrication of the perimeter design shape and ~~functional the~~ indicia substrate retention area ~~is done with one downstroke of a die cutter;~~ may be formed via diecutting, and by using only one piece of flexible planar substrate material, plus a means of retention source. A means of retention may include exteriorly fixed abutments, a fixed length tie strap, a resilient stretchable bungee cord, or a fixed width wire rod leg set. This particular display is made of two main parts; a flexible planar polymer substrate, and a ~~said fixed~~ wire rod leg set. A third and optional part is a vertically adjustable sliding clip; made also from the same type of substrate as ~~said the~~ display, and is purposed to retain rigid indicia substrates.

[029] The major components ~~comprising;~~ comprise a formed shape of the main body Fig. 3,(10) of a flexible planar substrate; a completely cut through slit Fig. 3,(24), ~~to be referred to as a flexible indicia substrate retaining slit, or retaining slit;~~ A plurality of ~~determinedly spaced planar~~ edge perimeter notches Fig. 3,(30); a plurality of aperture forming support tabs Fig.3,(36), ~~to be referred to as support tabs;~~ and the areas Fig. 3,(38), ~~to be formed into a plurality of determinedly spaced apertures before being formed into the leg set apertures of Fig. 2,(18) to be referred to as leg set apertures.~~ Also shown in Fig. 3,(32) are dotted lines to show ~~future width and~~ comparisons of horizontal compression of ~~said the~~ display {when compared with Fig 1 and Fig. 4 }. ~~Fabrication of said leg set apertures (Fig. 1,18) are formed in said areas Fig. 3,38, (using methods relating to and accordingly to the material type of said flexible planar substrate used, whether polymer, paperboard, or metal).~~



[030] ~~Said~~ The aperture forming support tabs are shown in Fig. 3,(36) before any forming, and in Fig. 4,(36) after their forming. ~~In this present case of a planar polymer display substrate, said~~ The support tabs of Fig. 3,(36) are heat-formed, folded over a mold element of a close diameter as that diameter of ~~said the~~ leg set, and approximately 180 degrees and back onto, and adjacent to the rearward surface of the vertically lower area of ~~said main body of the~~ display substrate, where the surfaces contact each other Fig. 4,(36). ~~, and a longitudinal and elongate leg aperture is formed with tolerances matching diameter of metal rod of said leg set and also matching the desired ability of said leg set to slide smoothly and elongately within said leg set aperture Fig. 4,18. The remaining portions of said aperture forming support tabs Fig. 4,36 will provide a greater vertical rigidity and a greater springable resistance to compression of said display substrate.~~

[031] A (u-shape) leg set Fig. 4,(14) is formed from a metal wire rod, with a slight bend formed near each elongate end Fig. 4,(16). One leg of ~~said the~~ leg set is positioned parallel to the vertically lower and rearward planar surface of ~~said the~~ display and adjacent to ~~said the~~ aperture forming support tab. ~~Said the~~ tab is then lifted away from ~~said rearward planar the~~ surface of display substrate to allow a horizontal sliding of one individual leg behind ~~said the~~ tab until the leg is positioned into ~~said the~~ leg set aperture Fig. 4,(18). A slight bend Fig. 4,(16) at the elongate end of both leg tips prevents ~~said the~~ leg set from prematurely and longitudinally exiting ~~said the~~ leg set aperture.

[032] Fig. 4 shows one present state of completion, with ~~said the~~ display substrate in a relaxed tension free mode for handling and storage.

[032] Fig. 8,a and Fig. 8,b show resulting tabs after the last process of fabrication; the heat bending of ~~said the~~ vertically adjustable sliding clip. Fig. 8,c shows ~~polymer the~~ substrate shape before bends are made. Each elongate end of the substrate in Fig. 8,c is heat formed and folded approximately 180 degrees around side edges and toward the rearward surface of ~~said the~~ indicia retaining



appendage for a slidably but snug fit. The center positioned tab at the vertically lower edge within Fig. 8,c,(48) is then bent upwardly toward the user, ~~frontwardly, upwardly,~~ and bent approximately 180 degrees from its original position; creating a ~~retaining and~~ recessed area for retaining the vertically lower edge of a rigid indicia substrate, as the vertically upper edge of ~~said~~ the substrate is positioned and retained under and behind the rigid indicia retaining tab shown in Fig. 7,(26).

[033] Fig. 7 shows the present state of completion with ~~said~~ the rigid indicia (42) in position.

[034] Various drawings showing different views, uses, and stages of fabrication are as follows;

[035] Shown in Fig. 4,32 is a dotted line for visual width comparison between Fig. 4, (32) and Fig. 1,(32). Fig. 1 is a rear view showing both legs of ~~said~~ the leg set positioned within ~~said~~ the leg set apertures, and whereas ~~said~~ the display is under ~~circumferential~~ compression and retension. Fig. 2 is an overhead view of Fig. 1. Shown are elongate bent leg tips (16); a wire rod leg set (14); a curvature of the frontward convex surface of ~~said~~ the display (34); and ~~said~~ the leg set apertures (18).

[036] Fig. 6 is a front view of Fig. 1 with ~~said~~ the flexible indicia substrate Fig. 6,(40) inserted between ~~said~~ the display substrate (10), and the indicia retaining appendage (28), as the uppermost vertical ~~planar~~ edge (44) is pulled back toward the user for easier insertion of ~~said~~ the flexible indicia substrate (40). A frontward Frontward and slightly angled view of ~~said~~ the curvature shape (20) is shown at the vertically lower base area of ~~said~~ the display substrate. Small dotted lines represent unseen areas of ~~said~~ the indicia retaining appendage (28). ~~(as per this specific view), as hidden by said flexible indicia substrate 40.~~ Large dotted lines represent unseen areas of ~~said~~ the flexible indicia substrate (40).

~~, as hidden by said main body of display substrate 10. Outer perimeter dimension of said flexible substrate is always larger than the dimension of said completely cut through slit 24, or slit formed said indicia retaining appendage 28.~~

[037] A rigid indicia substrate in Fig. 7,(42) is shown ~~inserted into said display in Fig. 7.~~ Said rigid indicia substrate 42 is positioned under and behind the rigid indicia retaining tab (26), where ~~said~~ the vertically adjustable sliding clip (46) is raised vertically upward until the curved tab of ~~said~~ the clip (48) rests under and supports ~~said~~ the rigid indicia substrate. ~~Dotted lines of said sliding clip 46 represent unseen area of said sliding clip, as hidden by said rigid indicia substrate 42. Dotted lines of Fig. 7,28 show hidden area of said indicia retaining appendage. A said~~ The flexible indicia substrate may be inserted and viewed simultaneously with ~~a said~~ the rigid indicia substrate, and with only a loss of viewing area equal to the amount which ~~said~~ the rigid indicia substrate covers up. ~~Said~~ The vertically adjustable sliding clip is shown in Fig. 8,a as a front view showing the curved tab of ~~said~~ the clip (48); and also in Fig. 8,b as a rear view, ~~also showing curved tab of said clip 48. Said~~ The sliding clip is a separate and optional part, yet vertically retained onto and surrounding ~~said~~ the indicia retaining appendage through the same tensions of compression and retention that hold ~~said~~ the flexible indicia paper sheet substrate.

[038] A counter-top, table-top, or free and self-standing floor display become options by removing ~~said~~ the leg set ~~(one leg at a time)~~ and vertically inverting ~~said~~ the leg set as shown in Fig 5,(14), ~~then again replacing legs under each said aperture forming tab.~~ The overall tensions are slightly ~~and minutely~~ reduced with ~~said~~ the leg set in this inverted position, yet keeping retain more tension than actually needed for ~~functional~~ use as an indoor free-standing 3-D display.

[039] Note ~~that the vector line slit stressed~~ beginning and endpoints of ~~said~~ the aperture and appendage forming completely through cut slit, ~~are~~ shown in Fig. 1,(22); and how their last positions and direction of travel are not directionally parallel with any 3 sides of the perimeter of ~~said~~ the formed appendage.



These directionally predetermined ~~end points~~ portions of the through cut slit will prevent further tearing or extending of ~~said vector line~~ the slit; and while under normal and intended use, and when ~~said~~ the display is subjected to directionally intended compression, curvature, and retension. ~~Said appendage is not intended to be used as a handle to pull sign out of ground with, or be carried by, or to twist when inserting or removing any indicia substrates.~~

[040] A display with one leg positioned within one aperture is in a relaxed state with all tensions released. This ~~"flattened" for compact storage~~ flattened and stackable carrying ~~mode~~ position is changed as the user lifts the other remaining support tab back and away from the rearward surface of the display; and ~~horizontally~~ laterally slides the remaining leg under ~~said~~ the tab until it is ~~"snapped"~~ positioned into place within the remaining leg set aperture. As this process is done, beginning stresses and tensions have already been placed on the entire ~~said~~ display, including ~~said~~ the leg set; which is then slid downwardly; and pointedly away from a user's body; and ~~longitudinally and elongately~~ within the open areas of ~~said~~ the leg set apertures. The full extension of ~~said the~~ leg set completes any compression, or curvature shape, and then retains all stresses. ~~User~~ The user then pushes ~~said the~~ extended leg set into the ground with hands or foot. After the user addresses the now upright display from the frontward indicia viewing side, the uppermost planar perimeter edge Fig. 6,(44) is pulled ~~frontward and~~ toward the user's body to allow insertion of ~~said the~~ flexible printed indicia, and then released. ~~Said~~ The curvature shape causes ~~said the~~ upper edge to ~~"snap"~~ position itself back to ~~said the~~ state of tensioned curvature; wherein ~~said the~~ indicia Fig. 6,(40) is held tightly in place between ~~said the~~ rearward concave surface of ~~said the~~ display and the frontward convex surface of ~~said the~~ indicia substrate retaining appendage.

[041] A rigid indicia substrate may be inserted at this time, as the user again addresses ~~said the~~ display from ~~said the~~ frontward viewing side, and then grips ~~said the~~ edge (44) and pushes it rearward and away from the user's body.

This action lifts the rigid indicia retaining tab Fig. 7,(26) for easy insertion of ~~said~~ the rigid indicia substrate. The vertically upper planar edge is positioned under and behind ~~said the~~ the tab, and with the rearward surface of ~~said the~~ the rigid indicia substrate adjacent to the frontward surface of ~~said the~~ the indicia substrate.

~~Said~~ The vertically adjustable sliding clip Fig. 7,(46) is then adjusted vertically upwards until the indentation of its curved tab (48) contacts and supports the vertically lower planar edge of ~~said the~~ the rigid substrate (42). ~~Said~~ The clip is optionally pre-mounted onto and partially surrounding ~~said the~~ the retainer appendage Fig. 7,(28); and is retained by dimensionally close tolerances between ~~said the~~ the appendage and ~~said the~~ the main body of the display, ~~and retained tensions when in a state of compression.~~ When ~~said the~~ the clip is not in use, there is no obstruction or interference with ~~said the~~ the indicia substrate when ~~said the~~ the clip is positioned at the vertically lowest position possible.

[042] Other means for retention of ~~said the~~ the curvature shape can be used in addition to ~~said the~~ the leg set; including the current wire stands now widely in use; a fixed length plastic tie strap; an elastic bungee cord; and any fixed width abutments are all functional for retension.

[043] Users ~~has~~ have the option at any time to remove ~~said the~~ the leg set, and then vertically invert, and replace ~~said the~~ the inverted leg set for multi-purpose indoor and outdoor uses Fig. 5.